

MINUTES



MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 7 February 2005 at Knox Civic Centre

**PRESENT**

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna  
 Boronia Uniting Church  
 Knox Reconciliation Group  
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
 Unification Church, Belgrave  
 St. Vincent de Paul/Ferntree Gully Catholic Church  
 Hindu  
 St Simons Rowville Catholic Church

**APOLOGIES**

ISOMER

**OPENING:**

Meeting was opened at 7:30pm by Rowland who welcomed everyone.

**AGENDA:**

Agenda of items for this meeting was listed on the night as:

1. Attendance / Apologies
2. Blessing by and Presentation from Hindu Faith
3. Previous Minutes
4. Business arising from Minutes
5. Meeting dates and Functions for 2005
6. Other Business Items

**2. Presentation from Hindu Faith**

(Summary as prepared by the Secretary – respectful apologies for any omissions or errors.)

There are over 400 million Hindus in India alone. It originated in the Punjab region. The name was Sindu, mispronounced as Hindu, and the people moved from Hindustan to India.

All gods are symbols that require interpretation. Hinduism is not truly a “religion” in the sense it aims to re-unite. A core element is *dharma* – a Sanskrit word arising from the root *dru*, which means to uphold or support. It gives rise to a law of being and also means righteousness. It is interpreted as ‘that thing which makes it the thing without which it would not be the thing.’

Dharma can be relative, e.g., the sun generates light and that is its dharma, whereas the moon reflects that light. The dharma of fire is combustion. Hinduism explores the absolute

dharma, which is existence. It can be stated as "I am" or "It is". As existence is continuous and infinite, there is "only one". In the absolute view of dharma, there is no cause and effect as there are relative. Being is the foundation on which we exist and it upholds creation.

The relative dharma of humans involves discernment, reason and choice. The aim is to create a quiet mind, so there can be maximum discernment. This is achieved through understanding the human body and desires, from lower to higher:

Sexual organs	è	Stomach	è	Heart	è	Brain
Sexual drive	è	Appetite	è	Emotions	è	Reason / Intellect

If people know their relative dharma they are at one with the universe. That is, if they know self, they know all and are one with all. This means they love all and are in service to all.

By contrast, creation in Christianity arises from creation by the eternal and the goal is to have a relationship with this eternal being.

### 3. Previous Minutes

RESOLUTION: The minutes as presented were moved for acceptance by Connie, seconded by Sally and confirmed unanimously. Signed as accepted by Rowland.

### 4. Business Arising

1. Knox Inter-faith Network 2005 Brochure  
The draft prepared by Sally was discussed. Suggestions were made and accepted for enhancing it further. Sally was authorised to get it produced.
2. Web-site  
Further work is pending the outcome of the application with Knox Council for funding assistance – deferred to April 2005 meeting.
3. Logo  
The various drafts prepared by Peter were discussed. It was agreed to adopt the version using the symbol of a circular rainbow and remove "KIN" from the words.  
RESOLUTION: It was moved by Daphne and seconded by Sally that Peter organise for printing of a copy of the logo on as large a size poster as possible, to a maximum expenditure of \$50. Passed unanimously.
4. Knox Festival  
The Festival is to be held 4-6 March 2005; next planning meeting is 9 February at 5:30pm and Sally will attend from the Knox Inter-faith Network.

#### ACTIONS:

- A4.1: Sally to co-ordinate roster for manning of Knox Inter-faith Network stall.
- A4.2: All: provide contact brochures for their community for use on the stall.
- A4.3: All: provide photos of past events to Connie as co-ordinator.
- A4.4: Peter: arrange for printing of the logo per the resolution above.

### 5. Meeting dates and Functions for 2005

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|---------------------------|--|
| 4 April 2005 (Room 2):    | Unification Church   |
| 6 June 2005 (Room 1):     | Buddhist Faith (To Be Confirmed – Action with Phil)        |
| 8 August 2005 (Room 2):   | Pentecostal Church (To Be Confirmed – Action with Rowland) |
| 3 October 2005 (Room 1):  |  |
| 5 December 2005 (Room 1): |  |

*Draft for discussion*

**6. Other Business**

1. Possible Response by Knox Inter-faith Network to Boxing Day Tsunami  
Peter reported on email correspondence from Knox Council enquiring whether the Network was interested in making a response to this sad event. After discussion, and considering the time that had elapsed since the event and the generous response already made by the Australian community, those present agreed it made more sense to look at planning an event towards the end of 2005, as a memorial near the anniversary.
2. City of Manningham – Launch of their Inter-Faith Network  
Peter reported on the planned launch of this new Network on 21 March 2005, and noted that requests for attendance would arrive shortly.
3. Confest  
Phil reported on this event to be held near Deniliquin.

Meeting ended at 9:30pm.

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